

Mason Matters!

FALL 2012

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

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Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Summer is over, students are back in school, and there's an election in November, as there is every year in Virginia. A few reminders as our routines get re-established:

- Please be careful when driving through school zones or where children are getting on or off buses in your neighborhood. Speeding through school zones and/or passing a stopped school bus is considered aggressive driving, subject to hefty fines and possible license suspension.
- Take a few minutes to check out Fairfax County's Emergency Management "30 Ways in 30 Days" tips for preparing your household for natural or manmade emergencies. One easy tip for each day can be found on the county's Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov.
- As a result of redistricting in 2011, some precinct boundaries were adjusted, and some voters may find themselves assigned to different polling places. More information about voting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, so you can check out where you vote long before November 6, Election Day. The last day to register to vote in this year's General Election is Monday, October 15. You can find a sample ballot at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections.



The subject for Mason District's Fall Town Meeting on October 15 is bullying. This mode of conduct often is associated with the schoolyard, but it extends much farther. Childhood bullies often continue the same behavior into adulthood, affecting family, business, and social relationships. Guest speakers from the Fairfax County Police Department and Fairfax County Public Schools will discuss bullying, including cyber-bullying, and how to address it, beginning at 7 p.m. at the new Mason Crest Elementary School, 3705 Crest Drive in Annandale. Come a little early to check out this beautiful new investment in our community.

Learn more about the Civil War in Fairfax County by attending the dedication of a historical marker commemorating the Civil War at Mason District Park on Saturday, October 20, at 10 a.m. The marker is located at the end of the main parking lot, near the office. The dedication, organized by the Fairfax County History Commission, will feature Civil War re-enactors; all are welcome. The park is located at 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale.

One fall event missing from the calendar this year is the Mason District Park Festival. Organized in 1980 by the Friends of Mason District Park, the fall festival was a popular family event at a time when free community events were not as plentiful, or as diverse, as they are today. As the only original founder associated with the festival during the entire 32 years, I am disappointed that the event can no longer be sustained, as costs increased, vendors, volunteers, and visitors decreased, and the event suffered unacceptable losses during the past few years. I thank the Park Authority and staff for their long partnership with the Friends, which will continue hosting the free summer concerts and other community events at Mason District Park.

The Mason District Holiday Town Gathering will be held on Thursday, December 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center. I look forward to seeing you there.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we are ready to help with any county-related matter.

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON

Absentee Voting Information for the November 6 General Election

In-person absentee voting at the Office of Elections, located at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323 in Fairfax, will be held Monday through Friday, September 21 to October 16. Please note the days and hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and on Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The office will be closed on Monday, October 8 in observance of Columbus Day. Extended hours offered from October 17 to November 2, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3.

From October 17 to November 3, registered voters also may vote absentee in person at the satellite location in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, Monday through Friday, from 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring a current and valid form of identification.

The deadline to apply by mail or fax for an absentee ballot is October 30 at 5 p.m. All mailed absentee ballots **MUST** be received at the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 6, to be counted.

Students attending college outside the metropolitan area may call the registrar's office at 703-222-0776 to request an application for an absentee ballot. When the registrar receives the completed ballot application, a ballot will be sent directly to the student. Students' completed ballots must be received in the Electoral Board Office before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Every registered voter in Virginia will receive a new voter registration card in the coming weeks. Verify your address and the location of your polling place. **If you have moved since you last voted, update your address before October 15.** First-time voters are urged to contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections for instructions. Information is available on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb, or call 703-222-0776; TTY 711.

The deadline to register to vote is October 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Seven Corners Task Force Formed

A Seven Corners Task Force and Work Groups were formed to develop comprehensive plan recommendations for the Seven Corners area of Mason District. This process began with well-attended public meetings during the spring and summer with more opportunity for community participation in the coming months. The Land Use and Transportation Task Force and the Quality of Life Work Group will convene at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, and the Connectivity Work Group will convene at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. These public meetings are held at the Mason District Governmental Center, and interested residents are welcome to attend and participate. For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Gross by e-mail at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717, or the Office of Community Revitalization by e-mail at revitalization@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-9300.



Four Bond Referenda Included on 2012 Ballot

Bonds are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. There are four proposed bond referenda on the ballot for the November 6, 2012 election.

The **Parks and Park Facilities Bonds** total \$75 million of which \$63 million would go to the Fairfax County Park Authority, and \$12 million would pay for the county's share of costs to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The county parks funds would be spent in four areas: Parks - Land Acquisition and Stewardship (\$12.9 million); Community Parks and New Facilities (\$7.2 million); Facility Expansion (\$19 million); and Existing Facility Renovation (\$23.3 million).

The **Public Safety Bonds** total \$55 million of which \$35 million would rebuild three fire stations. The fire stations include: Bailey's Crossroads Fire Station #10 (\$9 million); Jefferson Fire Station #18 (\$14 million); and Herndon Fire Station (\$12 million). The Fairfax County Courthouse would need \$20 million to renovate a total of 22 courtrooms: nine in the General District Court, and 13 in the Circuit Court, which have been used constantly since the 1980s.

The **Public Library Bonds** total \$25 million and would renovate three libraries: Pohick Regional Library (\$5 million); John Marshall Library (\$5 million); and Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library (\$5 million). These libraries would be renovated to add more public computers; enhance wireless access; add quiet and group study spaces; and upgrade old building systems to improve energy efficiency and operations. The Reston Regional Library (\$10 million) would be constructed as an urban mixed-use center with government facilities. Bond funds also would be used for the site studies, design, and construction when the library location is determined.

The **Storm Drainage Improvement Bonds** total \$30 million and would be used to build a levee and pumping station to protect the Huntington neighborhood from flooding. During the past 10 years, three floods have damaged homes, vehicles and other property in this neighborhood. At Fairfax County's request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied several options, and determined that a levee and a pumping station are the most cost-effective way to protect this neighborhood. Although the levee would prevent flooding of houses from the typical storms experienced in our area, it is not designed to offer protection from flooding caused by storms categorized as a 100-year event. For more information about the 2012 Bond Referenda, log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond, or call the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187.

When you set your clocks back one hour on November 4 to return to standard time, don't forget to change the batteries in smoke alarms throughout your home.



Land Use News



The Mosby Branch of the United States Postal Service has reopened at its new location, 6533-A Arlington Boulevard, between Annandale Road and South Street in Falls Church. This location is open for full service, except for passport application processing. For hours or other information, call the Mosby Branch Post Office at 703-532-4639.

- Sidewalk connectivity projects continue to be built in the Mason District. Construction of a much-needed sidewalk connection is underway along the south side of Columbia Pike, between Downing Street and Lincolnia Road. Barring any unforeseen delays, the construction is anticipated to be completed in one month. More pedestrian improvements in Annandale, Bailey's Crossroads, and the Lincolnia areas of Mason District are in planning/design.
- Residents in the Skyline area may notice construction occurring at the Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria Campus. Construction of the new Tyler Building is anticipated to begin in October, and is expected to open in 2014. During construction, full access to the campus will not be available through Campus Lane East, so please use the Campus Lane West or the Dawes Avenue entrances. Parking and bus service at the campus will resume during construction. For more information, contact Timothy Howard, Office of the Provost, at thoward@nvcc.edu or at 703-933-8363.
- Through coordination with the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation, parking restrictions were implemented on the Leesburg Pike service road between Glen Forest Drive and Payne Street. The parking restriction improves vehicular and pedestrian safety in the Bailey's Crossroads area.



(L-R) Fire Station 10 Technician Jin Lee, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, Parliaments Apartments Leasing Manager Kiyana Porter, Parliaments Apartments Property Manager Karen Geier-Smith, and Fire Station 10 Lt. Scott Primrose, received backpacks and school supplies donated by Southern Management Company to benefit underserved kindergarten through high school-aged children in our community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fire and Rescue Department marked the 10th Annual Backpack Drive by collecting more than 3,000 backpacks.

Mason District Open House

Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

See police demonstrations, enjoy great food, meet McGruff, the Crime Dog and his friends on the Canine Unit, learn about community/county resources, play in the moon bounce, and more! For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason, send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717.

Coming Attractions

- The Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street in Alexandria, will host its popular Flea Market on Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great bargains feature jewelry, puzzles, craft items, books, music, and more. For more information, call Karen Albers at 703-914-0223, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or by e-mail at Karen.Albers@fairfaxcounty.gov.
- The **Annandale Fall Festival Parade** will be held on Saturday, October 27, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, or to participate, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232. The **Annandale Fall Festival** will be held in the Safeway parking lot at the Little River Shopping Center on Little River Turnpike from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Enjoy music by local bands and jazz groups, *The Taste of Annandale* will feature international cuisine, and toddlers to teens can enjoy interactive games. For more information, visit www.annandalechamber.com, or e-mail festival@AnnandaleChamber.com.
- Volunteers of America-Chesapeake/Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter will pay special tribute to our community's veterans at an Open House on Sunday, November 11, 2 - 4 p.m. Assorted desserts and beverages will be served, music by local performers will be featured, and guests are welcome to tour the facility. For more information, call 703-820-7621.
- Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria, will host a Gardener's Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 2, 12 - 4 p.m. Enjoy seasonal music and refreshments with your family, and shop for holiday gifts and plants for yourself or favorite gardener. For more information, call 703-642-5173, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp.
- Supervisor Gross invites you to Mason District's Holiday Town Gathering on Thursday, December 6, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy the start of the holiday season with your neighbors and friends, enjoy a feature performance by local musicians, and tasty refreshments. For more information, call 703-256-7717, or send an e-mail to mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Community Notes

- National Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 7-14. Fire Stations throughout Mason District will host Fire Prevention Open Houses on Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, call 703-246-3801, or log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire.
- AARP volunteers will return in 2013 to provide free tax help to residents from February 1 until April 15 at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Walk-in service will be available on Mondays and Thursdays: 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All returns are filed electronically. For more information about and to volunteer, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.
- The ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need of furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.
- Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting information sessions for people interested in being an advocate on behalf of abused or neglected children. Sessions are held twice monthly in preparation for upcoming training classes. For more information, visit www.casafairfax.org, or call Elisa Kosarin, associate director for recruitment and training at 703-273-3526, ext. 22, or send an e-mail to ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

Mason District's Fall Town Meeting

Monday, October 15 at 7 p.m.

Mason Crest Elementary School Cafeteria
3705 Crest Drive in Annandale

Join your neighbors and learn about the topic of Bullying - it is not just a school yard issue anymore. Speakers from the Fairfax County Police Department and Fairfax County Public Schools will present information and answer your questions.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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